

EXCERPT FROM INTERROGATION OF OSHIMA, HIROSHI, 1 February 1946, pp. 18, 19.

A. I wish to point out to you that the Japanese military and naval attaches are not under the jurisdiction of the ambassador, but are directly responsible to the respective staff headquarters in Tokyo. As far as the embassy goes, they are under the ambassador, but as far as their duties go they are responsible to their military superiors in Tokyo.

Q. Are they authorized by virtue of their position as military attaches to enter into negotiations with the military of another nation, looking towards a pact or a treaty or an international agreement between the two nations?

A. Yes, if it was a strictly military matter they may discuss these matters without going through the ambassador... Before I go any further I would like to stress here that they were sounding out the opinion of the Japanese army and not that of the Japanese government because if they had been that would have been the ambassador's duty.

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Q. Is it not also a fact that if Ribbentrop or any one else in Germany could sell the military of Japan on this idea that the military was then probably in a position whereby they could persuade the Foreign Office to go along with the idea?

A. Yes, that is one point and quite true that the army had enough power to very probably sell the pact to the Japanese government. The second point is the one I stressed before that Ribbentrop was not in an official capacity at the time. Particularly, in this point, he had seen how the Japanese army had taken possession of Manchuria and, therefore, naturally, concluded from that that the Japanese army would be in the strongest position to push a treaty of this type ... I would say that no treaty could possibly have been made on this if the army had not wished it.